

REMARKS

Claims 1-87 remain pending in this application. Pursuant to the telephonic conversation between Examiner Kazimi and Applicants' representative on August 5, 2004, Applicants submit this request for reconsideration so that the final Office action may be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance or new action be issued in response to Applicants' November 26, 2003 Response to Office Action ("Response").

The final Office action was improper for at least the following reasons. Examiner Akers failed to acknowledge or respond to Applicants' § 101, § 112 or § 103 arguments provided in the Response, except to simply state that "Applicant's arguments are not persuasive." In the final Office action and the original non-final action, Examiner Akers merely cited to highly generalized portions of the references without providing any application or context to any particular claim.

Applicants are grateful to Examiner Kazimi for his assistance, and are filing a Notice of Appeal on even date in order to preserve the pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

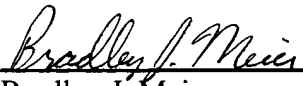
It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing remarks, the application is in clear condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge the three-month small entity extension of time fee of \$475.00 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600; a copy of this page is provided for this purpose. Although not believed necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4200 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 18, 2004


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